

The BYE-POST

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ed. Colin Stuart

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Wanstead House, our twice-monthly meeting place

In this Autumn newsletter, we look forward keenly to our 2017-18 programme, which we have extended slightly into June, while it was decided to keep dark, cold January clear of fixtures. (Taking a chance on the weather six months in advance is perhaps to tempt fate – there could be a heatwave in January, then blizzards in February and March! Fingers crossed!). Our thanks go once again to Rod, and also to those club members who have been persuaded to give presentations. During the year, we shall be welcoming no less than four speakers from the Frinton Philatelic Society, beginning on September 25th with 'British Forces in Egypt' and 'The Channel Islands'. We urge members to try to attend *all* meetings, especially those addressed by outside speakers who will often have come a very long way.

We have several informal meetings, beginning with our opening fixture, when as many members as possible will show small displays around the letter 'D' (dogs, Dominica, Dues – you name it). Then on October 23rd we have 'Swap and Sell', but we also invite members to show some of their very favourite items (and maybe tell what they really hate!), plus any interesting new acquisitions, and exchange general views on the collecting world. (A most significant development has been the alarming

near-demise of Stanley Gibbons, who seem to have over-reached themselves in a wildly overblown yet tottering philatelic market, in GB anyway. Do SG values really represent the true price, particularly of so much dubious modern material?)

Beside our regular meetings, we again have the two Fairs at Our Lady of Lourdes, and our two Auctions, plus the annual Quiz and informal bacchanal on December 9th. (Sadly there will be no meeting on the 25th). This year we have also ear-marked firm dates for our Committee meetings and the AGM.

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One highly effective means of buying/selling stamps, searching for essential information and of down-loading pictures, is via the computer. How many of us senior citizens understand and can use them? At our age not many, I am pretty sure, though regrettably our lives are becoming more and more dominated by the wretched things. They are everywhere! Though I myself do use one for straightforward affairs (email, typewriting, information and making simple purchases), their complexities leave me bemused, so that, being as it were 'illiterate', I now feel faintly scared of them. And I was cheated recently on ebay, which has done nothing for my personal confidence. I wonder how many of you share my perplexity?

[But note that the Society does maintain a well-used website at www.lwdps.org]

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Our membership is ageing, as just possibly you have noticed; and yet our numbers hold up remarkably well. Sadly, though, we have to report that in July we lost our very oldest member, John Browne, who had been a stalwart club member for many, many years, still attending even in the depths of winter. We all send our sympathy to Avril who, I am glad to say, continues to be a positive and very intelligent contributor to our proceedings.

Also, we have had to say goodbye, perhaps only temporarily, to another old faithful, Ron Brennand, who along with his wife Pat, has had to retire to sheltered accommodation in Ilford. Consequently he has suspended his collecting activities. We wish him well in his changed situation – they are/were a lovely couple.



Ron Brennand as we remember him, at one of our recent club meetings, still very much alive and kicking.